

Catamount Spirit

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TRANSITION STEERING COMMITTEE SETS SIGHTS ON TASKS

During the fall semester, the Transition Steering Committee was appointed and met three times to begin the planning that must be addressed to assure a smooth transition of Potomac State College from a regional campus to a fully integrated division of West Virginia University by July 1, 2005. The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

COLLEGE PREPARES FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS

On Dec. 5, 2003, West Virginia Governor Bob Wise announced a 1.4 percent reduction in fiscal year 2004 state appropriations to higher education institutions. As of this date, the reductions to general appropriations, annual increment supplement and tuition offset for Potomac State College amounts to \$58,860. It is anticipated that reserves in some of the College's auxiliary accounts can be used to meet this obligation.

The College is also anticipating a 9 to 10 percent budget reduction in fiscal year 2005. Given the current uncertainty with regard to possible differentiation for higher education institutions, the College will plan three budget scenarios: an optimistic 7 percent reduction, a 10 percent reduction and a pessimistic 13 percent reduction.

"In planning for the anticipated cuts we will review all operational and capital aspects of the College," said Interim President Dr. Kerry Odell. "Our number one priority will be protecting the academic integrity of the College. It is also our intent to protect faculty and staff positions. Any reduction in force will be employed only as a last resort to reduce costs."

POTOMAC STATE RECEIVES GRANT TO POST CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM ONLINE

West Virginia University has announced that \$115,000 in collaborative online grants has been awarded to WVU campuses to create more educational opportunities for students across the state.

Potomac State College of WVU and WVU Parkersburg will collaborate to deliver the associate of applied science (AAS) degree in criminal justice online. This project, set to begin in fall 2004, includes a plan for shared course development and delivery. The program will target those already employed in the field of criminal justice who would like to advance their current positions and those attracted to the growing array of opportunities presented by an emphasis on homeland security. Potomac State College will receive \$20,225..

The grants, which are being funded by Extended Learning and the Provost's office at WVU, were designed to encourage collaboration across WVU campuses and to create degree programs or collections of courses that lead to a defined program of study.

According to WVU Provost Gerald Lang, "There is a growing demand for online education, especially among adults who can't always travel to campus. We are in a unique position to pool together the technical and academic resources of our campuses to serve more students around the state."

Dr. Andrea Bucklew, Instructor in Criminal Justice and Career Education Coordinator at Potomac State College of WVU, had this to say regarding the collaboration, "I was very pleased when I heard about the grant. It will be a great benefit to anyone who would like to earn a criminal justice degree but feels they can't because of working full-time, having children or both." Adding, "This will also serve as an example for other programs to follow in developing distance learning alternatives and will be a great asset for the College."



This year's Holiday Reception in the Potomac Café gave students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests from the community the opportunity to visit with one another and enjoy the special menu prepared by Chef Thomas Vieli, Carol Combs and the Dining Services staff. Pictured from left are: Faith Angel Blackshear; Shawn White, standing, Athletic Director and Instructor; Charlisa Cummins; Alex Johnson; Erin Thompson; and Isaac Caldwell.

A second recreational area for students will open in the lower level of the Student Union building when students return this spring. This will give students both the upper level and lower level of the student union for use.

The area will include a conference room so clubs and other student organizations will have a place to hold meetings. Also included in the sprawling area will be a big screen TV, pool tables, a foosball table, a ping-pong table, and vending machines. Students will be able to hold dances as well as other events in the new facility as a state of the art sound system was installed.

New tables and chairs along with couches will also occupy a section of the area. Although there will be no permanent computers in the lower level, students can bring their own laptops as there is wireless access.

The upper level of the student union will no longer have a large screen TV, but will still contain sitting areas and will be used more for studying or quieter get-togethers.

Bob Merow, Interim Project Administrator at WVU, helped with the construction of the new level running interference throughout the entire project from preparing bids and working with contractors, to helping with the design and inspecting the work as it was being done.

"We were concerned that we weren't addressing the needs of all students. We wanted a facility where students weren't too shy or uncomfortable about going into. Now all students including non-traditional, commuters and dorm students have a place where they can go to study, talk or enjoy some quiet time," said Bill Letrent, Dean of Student Affairs. Adding, "It's especially nice that the money used for the new area came from the student activities fees collected over the years."

Mikael Howard, Coordinator of Student Activities who will oversee the facility, has been anxiously awaiting the completion of the center for the students. An open house has been planned for January 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to drop in and see the new facilities. Light refreshments will be served.

The College is scheduled to be evaluated April 5-7, 2004, by a four-member team of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The campus Self-Study Committee has finished compiling the 170-page, self-study report which is being printed and will be sent, along with other supporting documents, to the committee members in mid-February.

The team will visit the campus to evaluate the institution's educational programs, student life, human resources, facilities, and finances to determine the accreditation status of Potomac State College of WVU. The College has been continuously accredited by North Central since 1926.

Happy 2004!

TRANSITION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

overall work of the committee will be to make recommendations to WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. and Gerald E. Lang, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research. They, in turn, will submit a transition plan to the WVU Board of Governors for approval.

To provide leadership to this effort, Provost Lang appointed Associate Provost Russ Dean and Interim-President Kerry Odell to co-chair the Transition Steering Committee.

The specific charge to the committee is:

- 1.) Oversee the smooth transition of Potomac State College to a fully integrated division of WVU by July 1, 2005, including a timeline for the various actions that must occur.
- 2.) Oversee and review the development of specific agreements/policies related to each major activity of Potomac State College that is to be

managed by the Morgantown campus.

Participating on the Transition Steering Committee are the following individuals: Cheryl Torsney, WVU Associate Provost for Academic Programs; Doug Wilmes, PSC Dean of Curriculum and Instruction; Brenda Thompson, WVU Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management; Beth Little, PSC Director of Enrollment Services; Linda Hicks, PSC Board of Advisors Representative; Gary Rogers, WVU Associate Vice President of Finance; Harlan Shreve, PSC Interim Assistant Director of Business Affairs; Bill Letrent, PSC Dean of Student Affairs; David Stewart, WVU Dean of Student Affairs; Rene Trezise, PSC Director of Marketing & Communications; Oscar Masaveu, PSC Chair of Faculty Assembly; Mike Cannon, PSC Classified Staff President; and Rayna Smith, PSC Student Government Association President.

Thus far, in addition to reviewing existing agreements between Potomac

State College and WVU, the committee began assessing the more detailed work that must be addressed as the committee develops transition plans for every area of the College.

Also during the semester, a team of individuals from the Keyser campus visited the Morgantown campus to observe the BANNER System, a student information system, in operation and likewise, a team from WVU visited the Potomac State College campus to evaluate how the BANNER System will best be incorporated.

Also, for HLC accreditation planning, it was decided that both campuses should proceed with separate self-study documents for the 2004 site visits, but that a common document describing transition planning should be included in the information submitted to the HLC prior to the team visits.

"If our meetings thus far are any indication of the good will and hard work people bring to this task, I have no doubt we will get the work done well and on time," stated Associate Provost Russ Dean.

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS



Molly Alvaro-Smith has been named Coordinator of the Academic Success Center. Smith earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Fairmont State College and her master's degree in counseling from Marshall University.



Jeffrey W. Jones is a visiting instructor in forestry. Jones earned his AAS in Forest Resource Management from Potomac State College in 1998. He is a graduate of WVU with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science, Forest Resource Management. Currently he is pursuing his master's degree in Forest Resource Management from WVU.



Thomas Vieli, a visiting instructor in hospitality and tourism, attended college in Ilanz, Switzerland, where he also served as an apprentice for a professional chef. Vieli spent two and a half years at the Professional Chef Training College of Zurich in Switzerland. Most recently Vieli served as Corporate Chef BKI, fresh ideas in foodservice equipment and before that as Executive Chef/Instructor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania Academy of Culinary Arts.



Timothy R. Nichols has been named Director of Student Support Services. Nichols earned his bachelor's degree in Bible studies from Harding University in 1981 and his master's degree in Counseling Psychology in 1989 from Frostburg State University.



Doolarie Singh-Knights is a visiting, assistant professor of agriculture. Singh-Knights earned her bachelor's degree in management studies from the University of the West Indies in 1997, her master's degree in production economics in 2001 from WVU and her Ph.D., also from WVU, in production economics and rural development.

Georgia R. Kreiger, a visiting instructor in English, earned her bachelor's degree in English from Frostburg State University in 1995, her master's degree in English from WVU in 1998 and is currently working on her Ph.D. (Photo not available)

FREE MEDICINE

According to a communiqué from Governor Wise's office, the Public Employees Insurance Agency will once again waive the co-pay for certain generic antibiotics for members of the PPB Plan during the months of January, February and March.

For these three months, the state is eliminating the co-pay for members who have met their annual prescription drug deductible. "With the cold and flu season hitting us especially hard this year, I want to help people as much as we can," Wise said.

STUDENT ADVISING AND REGISTRATION FOR 2004

Times for the SAR dates are approximately 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Tuesday, March 30
- Thursday, April 8 (Keyser High School SAR)
- Friday, April 16
- Friday, April 23 (Frankfort High School SAR)
- Monday, May 10
- Friday, June 11
- Monday, June 21
- Monday, July 12
- Friday, August 6
- Monday, August 16 (12 noon – 6 p.m.)

ADULT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES

Effective Spring 2004, Potomac State College of WVU is discontinuing the 1 + 1 Adult Student Scholarship and replacing it with the Adult Student Scholarship. The criteria for the new scholarship is as follows:

- Must be a resident of West Virginia;
- Must be a high school graduate or have earned the GED;
- Must be at least 24 years old by the start of spring 2004 semester;
- Must not have taken any classes at Potomac State College in the past year (since January 2003);
- Needs to be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours for the semester in which applying (cost of 3-hour course is \$282, approximate value of scholarship for additional 3-hour course is \$204);
- Possibility for scholarship renewal subsequent semester.
- Recipients can be either part-time or full-time students.

Availability of the scholarship is limited and is not automatically granted to all applicants. Recipients will be notified of selection for the scholarship. Applications are available in the Office of Enrollment Services. For further information, call 304-788-6820.

Catamount Spirit



The *Catamount Spirit* is a publication for the faculty and staff of Potomac State College of West Virginia University developed by the Marketing and Communications Department. Suggestions or submissions for articles and comments can be directed to either:

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CHILDREN'S CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Catamount Children's Center (CCC), a partnership between Potomac State College of WVU and the Children's Home Society of West Virginia, recently received national accreditation as a quality childcare provider by the Council of Accreditation (COA) for Children and Families.

The COA identifies providers that set high standards of performance for their programs and their commitment to the children and families they serve.

As written in the award letter: "The Catamount Children's Center is among the unique group of providers in the community of excellence that meets the highest standards for professional performance."

The CCC provides a wholesome, nurturing environment that encourages children to solve problems, master self-help and learning skills, make decisions, engage in activities, ask questions, explore and experiment and to promote the self-worth of each child through healthy, social relationships.

According to Center Director Gina Raschella, "Receiving this award serves as an affirmation of our meeting the highest national standards of professional performance in child care services. This is quite an achievement considering the very strict guidelines."

Renovations are also being made to accommodate the upcoming acceptance of infant care at the Center in January. "We're all very excited about this," said Raschella. More information will come in the new year.

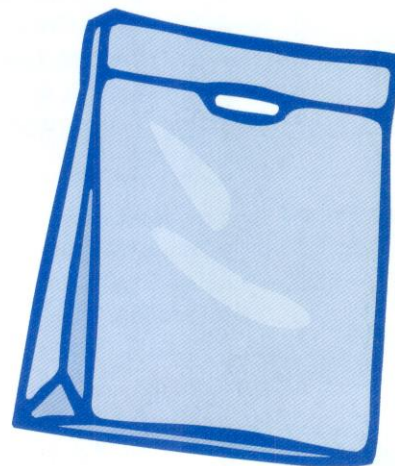
BROWN BAG IT WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE

The "Brown Bag Lunch Series" will be starting in January and will be co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council of Potomac State College of WVU and the West Virginia University President's Office for Social Justice.

The purpose of the "Brown Bag Lunch" is to make faculty and staff aware of various aspects of diversity and subject matter relating to social justice.

The lunches will be held every four to six weeks with Jennifer McIntosh tentatively giving a presentation during the first luncheon in January. In February a panel of students will speak about their experiences here at the college and cultural differences.

The sessions are being held during lunch in order to give more people the opportunity to attend. Some of the presentations will include lunch, while others will include dessert and drinks.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM NATIONALLY RANKED

At the time of publication, the women's basketball team of Potomac State College of WVU is currently ranked No. 7 in the NJCAA Division II national rankings. The Lady Catamounts have had an outstanding season thus far with a current record of 9-0.

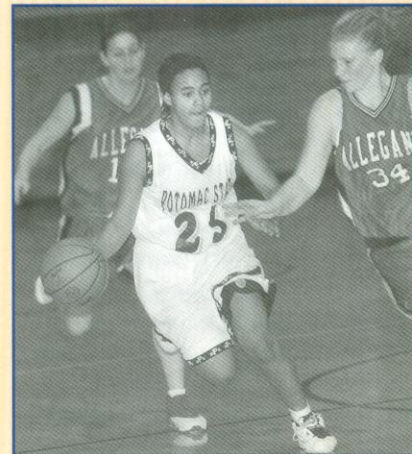
Under the talented coaching abilities of Gary Liston, the Catamounts scored at least 90 points in seven of the nine games played to date. They hold the number one position for team offensive average in Division II.

The Catamounts are ranked in all statistic categories beginning with the 11th ranking of Charlisa Cummins for individual scoring. Natasha Euell is ranked 13th for rebound leaders while

Erika Alt is ranked No. 2 for free-throw percentage and ranked as a steal leader. Teya Minor, who also ranked as a steal leader, is ranked No. 2 for assist leaders.

According to Coach Liston, "The past two years have been very successful. We've been 9-0 both years after the first semester." Liston added, "When you have good sophomores, then they've got the experience to win games. Our goal is twofold, first to win the Western Pennsylvania Athletic Conference and secondly, to again win 20 games and make it to the Region XX playoffs."

Potomac State will resume their games on January 14th when they host CCAC South at 5 p.m. as part of a doubleheader with the PSC men's team.



Tameisha Carter-Williams, No. 23, dribbles past an Allegany College player. Potomac State College rolled past Allegany College 96 to 81. The Women's Basketball Team resumes their season on January 14, when they take on CCAC/South in the Lough Gymnasium at 5 p.m. (Photo by Raymond Burner)